

07- C-1700

1117 St. Charles Place NE
Atlanta, GA 30306

August 17, 2007

President and Members
Atlanta City Council
55 Trinity Avenue
Suite 2900
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear President and Members of Atlanta City Council:

The BeltLine Network is pleased to offer the appointment of Saskia Benjamin to the TAD Advisory Committee to fill the remaining term of our previous appointee Deborah Miness, who resigned.

Ms. Benjamin will provide technical expertise in the area of Urban and Community Planning. She has a Masters in City Planning from Georgia Tech, has done extensive research on the BeltLine and is the manager of the Westside Blueprints project for the Georgia Conservancy. Previously, she was with the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development. We believe her experience will make her an asset on the Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Coyle
Chair
BeltLine Network

Saskia Jansje Benjamin

89 Bradley Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30312
saskiabbenjamin@bellsouth.net (404) 931-0846

Education

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA May, 2006
Master of City and Regional Planning–Urban Design

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 1998
Master of Arts, Art History–Greek and Roman Antiquities

Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 1995
Bachelor of Arts–Art History and Latin
Summa Cum Laude

The University of Georgia, Athens, GA Summer 1994
Archaeological Excavation in the Yasmina Necropolis, Carthage, Tunisia

Skills

Project management, community outreach, public speaking, writing & editing, excellent people and problem solving skills, and a variety of computer skills

Community Planning

Georgia Conservancy, Atlanta, GA

Growth Management Program Manager, April 2007 – Present

- Manage the Blueprints for Successful Communities program which is an education and technical assistance program designed to facilitate community-based planning across the state.
- As part of Blueprints, organize educational workshops to add to community knowledge about planning terminology and the public policy process.
- As part of Blueprints, identify and assemble community stakeholder groups to interact with graduate students in architecture and city and regional planning at Georgia Tech in the community planning workshops.
- Manage multiple partner organizations to ensure the success of the Blueprints programs. These are professional organizations such as the American Institute of Architects, Urban Land Institute, the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Georgia Stand-Up, Southface Energy Institute, the Georgia Planning Association, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the Georgia Institute of Technology
- Write grants and seek public and private funding for the Blueprints program.
- Handle land conservation initiatives for the Georgia Conservancy including working with the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Trust for Public Land on educating and assisting local governments with identifying, funding, and securing land for green infrastructure.

Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development, Atlanta, GA

Research Assistant, June 2006 – 2007

Graduate Research Assistant, August 2004 – June 2006

- Contributing author for the *BeltLine Health Impact Assessment* – a project with

the Centers for Disease Control, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

- Project manager and lead author for *The Community and Environmental Impacts of the Freight Industry in Metro Atlanta* – a project with Wilbur Smith Associates, for the Atlanta Regional Commission
- Project manager and lead author on *Housing and Health: Forging the Economic and Empirical Foundation* for the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership
- Coordinated and edited the *BeltLine Transit Feasibility White Paper*
- Coordinated the 2006 Governments & Growth and Everyday Neighborhoods conferences including: programming, speakers, and marketing efforts.
- Authored the *Mayor's Report on Planning in the City of Atlanta*
- Co-authored *A Time for Leadership: Growth Management and Florida 2060* a policy paper on land acquisition and preservation strategies in the State of Florida for the 1000 Friends of Florida
- Contributing author on *Georgia Coast 2030: Population Projections for the 10-County Coastal Region* for the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center
- Conducted stakeholder interviews and onsite research for the *Camden County, GA Quality Growth and Economic Development Study* – a joint project with the Economic Innovation Institute, GA Tech

Atlanta Regional Commission & The Georgia Conservancy, Atlanta, GA

***Special Project Planning Technician*, June 2006 – August 2006**

- Authored the *Green Infrastructure Toolkit* for city and county government officials and their staff in the greater Metropolitan Atlanta area.
- Worked with the staffs of the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Georgia Conservancy, and the Trust for Public Land on a regional greenspace strategy for the north Georgia Metropolitan region.

Arts Administration

High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

***Exhibitions Coordinator*, 2002 – 2004**

- Managed project team members to facilitate the creation, coordination, and installation of exhibitions.
- Authored and/or edited exhibition materials including: exhibition catalogues, educational toolkits/teacher packages, wall texts/text panels, and audio tours
- Managed contracts with outside vendors and handled copyright for all exhibitions
- Administered exhibition budgets
- Conducted tours for staff, the general public, and special guests of the museum including board members

***Assistant to the Deputy Director*, 2000 – 2002**

- Wrote and organized grants and contracts and handled departmental budgeting
- Acted as liaison between deputy director, staff, and board of directors
- Administered special committees of the board of directors

***Collections Assistant to the Registrar*, 1999 – 2000**

- Managed copyright for the museum's permanent collection
- Automated the artwork inventory system of over 13,000 objects

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| | <p><i>Collections Technician</i>, 1998 – 1999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesigned art storage facilities • Appointed as first permanent caretaker of the collection. Responsible for routine inspection, conditioning, and cleaning of the collection <p><i>Exhibitions and Design Assistant</i>, 1995 – 1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed the multi-million dollar exhibition budget for the Olympic exhibition, <i>Rings: Five Passions in World Art</i> • Assisted with the design and installation of exhibitions |
| Dance Administration | <p>Gardenhouse Dance Company, Atlanta, GA</p> <p><i>Associate Development Director</i>, 1999-2000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote and received local and national level grants • Spearheaded fundraising campaigns for individual donations as well as corporate and foundation support • Assembled a board of directors |
| Teaching | <p>University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA</p> <p><i>Adjunct Professor</i>, spring semester 1998</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed curriculum for an intermediate/advanced modern technique class • Developed curriculum for choreography I class <p><i>Teaching Assistant</i>, 1996-1998</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernity and Difference: Critical Approaches to Modern Art • Art History Survey • Greek Art and Archaeology • Roman Art and Archaeology |

Selected Papers

- *Cultural Planning as City Planning: Making the Case for Integrating Arts and Culture into the Comprehensive Development Plan for the City of Atlanta* (Master's Paper)
- *Blueprints Pittsburgh* (urban design studio sponsored by the Georgia Conservancy for the Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association)
- *LCIs: An Examination of Public Urban Design Practice and Implementation in the Atlanta Region: The Cities of Woodstock and Buford* (project sponsored by Urban Land Institute-Atlanta & Atlanta Regional Commission)
- *Public Art as a Public Good*
- *The Village of Arts and Humanities: The Culturally Adaptive Community as a New Fundamental in Local Economic Development*
- *Georgia Power and the Upper Westside: When Interests and Power Are at Odds*
- *Douglas County: Strategies for Growth Management*

Honors and Memberships

- Member, Livable Communities Coalition, Advisory Committee and Policy Subcommittee, 2007
- Member, Mixed Income Communities Initiative Committee, Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, 2007
- Member, BeltLine Network, 2007
- Member, Northeast BeltLine Steering Committee, 2007
- Member, Land Use Coordinating Committee, the Atlanta Regional Commission, 2007
- Member, Georgia Stand-Up Alliance, 2007
- Member, American Planning Association, 2004–Present
- Member, Georgia Planning Association, 2004–Present
- Member, Healthy Places Research Group, 2004–Present
- Recipient, faculty award for Outstanding Professional Promise, GA Tech, City and Regional Planning Program, 2006
- Recipient, Charles R. Brown Interdisciplinary Fellowship in Urban Design, GA Tech, College of Architecture, 2005
- Recipient, Employee Excellence Award, High Museum of Art, 2003
- Registrar's Committee, American Association of Museums, 1999–2001
- President, Board of Directors, Gardenhouse Dance Company, 2004–Present
- Graduate Fellowship and Teaching Assistantship, University of Southern California, 1996–1998
- Goodrich C. White Scholar, Emory University, 1991–1995